

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X  
FRANK MERCADO, individually and as administrator of  
the Estate of DAVID MERCADO, and EVELYN  
MERCADO,

Plaintiffs,

- against -

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTION COMMISSIONER MARTIN F. HORN,  
JOHN DOE CORRECTION OFFICERS ##1-5, PRISON  
HEALTH SERVICES, INC., MICHAEL CATALANO,  
C.E.O. OF PRISON HEALTH SERVICES, INC.,  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL  
HYGIENE MEDICAL DIRECTOR TREVOR PARKS,  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL  
HYGIENE PROGRAM DIRECTOR REBECCA PINNEY,  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL  
HYGIENE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER JAMES  
CAPOZIELLO, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
MENTAL HYGIENE MEDICAL DIRECTOR DOCTOR  
BENJAMIN OKONTA, PRISON HEALTH SERVICES,  
INC., EMPLOYEES ##1-5

Defendants.  
-----X

**08 CV 2855 (Judge Jones)**

**ANSWER**

**TRIAL BY JURY**  
**DEMANDED**

Defendant PRISON HEALTH SERVICES, INC., by its attorneys, HEIDELL,  
PITTONI, MURPHY & BACH, LLP, Of Counsel to MICHAEL A. CARDOZO, ESQ.,  
Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, upon information and belief, answers the  
complaint herein as follows:

**AS AND TO THE SECTION DESIGNATED "PRELIMINARY STATEMENT"**

FIRST: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint  
designated "1" through "3" insofar as the allegations pertain to the answering defendant and

otherwise denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to these allegations and begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE SECTION DESIGNATED "JURISDICTION"**

SECOND: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "4" through "6" insofar as the allegations pertain to the answering defendant and otherwise denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to these allegations and begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE SECTION DESIGNATED "PARTIES"**

THIRD: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "7" through "17" insofar as the allegations pertain to the answering defendant and otherwise denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to these allegations, except admits that at certain times not specifically set forth in the complaint PRISON HEALTH SERVICES, INC. was and is a foreign corporation duly licensed to do business in the State of New York and provided and provides medical services to inmates at Rikers Island pursuant to an agreement between itself and defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK in accordance with accepted standards of medical care and otherwise begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE SECTION DESIGNATED "NOTICE OF CLAIM"**

FOURTH: Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "18" and begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE SECTION DESIGNATED "CERTIFICATE OF MERIT"**

FIFTH: Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "19" and begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE SECTION DESIGNATED "JOINT LIABILITY"**

SIXTH: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraph of the complaint designated "20."

**AS AND TO THE SECTION DESIGNATED "FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS"**

SEVENTH: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "21" through "26" insofar as the allegations pertain to the answering defendant and otherwise denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to these allegations and begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

EIGHTH: Answering the paragraph of the complaint designated "27," defendant repeats and realleges each and every denial and admission in answer to the paragraphs of the complaint designated "1" through "26" with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

NINTH: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated "28" and "29" insofar as the allegations pertain to the answering defendant and otherwise denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to these allegations and begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

TENTH: Answering the paragraph of the complaint designated "30," defendant repeats and realleges each and every denial and admission in answer to the paragraphs of the

complaint designated “1” through “29” with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

ELEVENTH: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “31” through “41” insofar as the allegations pertain to the answering defendant and otherwise denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to these allegations and begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

TWELFTH: Answering the paragraph of the complaint designated “42,” defendant repeats and realleges each and every denial and admission in answer to the paragraphs of the complaint designated “1” through “41” with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

THIRTEENTH: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “43” through “49” insofar as the allegations pertain to the answering defendant and otherwise denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to these allegations and begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

FOURTEENTH: Answering the paragraph of the complaint designated “50,” defendant repeats and realleges each and every denial and admission in answer to the paragraphs of the complaint designated “1” through “49” with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

FIFTEENTH: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “51” and “52” insofar as the allegations pertain to the answering defendant and otherwise denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to these allegations

and begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

SIXTEENTH: Answering the paragraph of the complaint designated “53,” defendant repeats and realleges each and every denial and admission in answer to the paragraphs of the complaint designated “1” through “52” with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

SEVENTEENTH: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “54” through “56” insofar as the allegations pertain to the answering defendant and otherwise denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to these allegations and begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

EIGHTEENTH: Answering the paragraph of the complaint designated “57,” defendant repeats and realleges each and every denial and admission in answer to the paragraphs of the complaint designated “1” through “56” with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

NINETEENTH: Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “58” through “60” and otherwise begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

TWENTIETH: Answering the paragraph of the complaint designated “61,” defendant repeats and realleges each and every denial and admission in answer to the paragraphs

of the complaint designated “1” through “60” with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

TWENTY-FIRST: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “62” through “65.”

**AS AND TO THE EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

TWENTY-SECOND: Answering the paragraph of the complaint designated “66,” defendant repeats and realleges each and every denial and admission in answer to the paragraphs of the complaint designated “1” through “65” with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

TWENTY-THIRD: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “67” through “70” insofar as the allegations pertain to the answering defendant and otherwise denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to these allegations and begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**AS AND TO THE NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

TWENTY-FOURTH: Answering the paragraph of the complaint designated “71,” defendant repeats and realleges each and every denial and admission in answer to the paragraphs of the complaint designated “1” through “70” with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

TWENTY-FIFTH: Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “72” and “73.”

**AS AND TO THE TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

TWENTY-SIXTH: Answering the paragraph of the complaint designated “74,” defendant repeats and realleges each and every denial and admission in answer to the paragraphs



of the complaint designated “1 through “73” with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

TWENTY-SEVENTH: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “75” and “76.”

**AS AND TO THE ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

TWENTY-EIGHTH: Answering the paragraph of the complaint designated “77,” defendant repeats and realleges each and every denial and admission in answer to the paragraphs of the complaint designated “1” through “76” with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length and denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “77” and “78.”

**AS AND TO THE TWELFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

TWENTY-NINTH: Answering the paragraph of the complaint designated “79,” defendant repeats and realleges each and every denial and admission in answer to the paragraphs of the complaint designated “1” through “78” with the same force and effect as if herein set forth at length.

THIRTIETH: Denies the allegations contained in the paragraphs of the complaint designated “80” through “83” insofar as the allegations pertain to the answering defendant and otherwise denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to these allegations and begs leave to refer all questions of law to the court and all questions of fact to the trier thereof.

**FOR A FIRST DEFENSE**

THIRTY-FIRST: That whatever damages may have been sustained at the time and place alleged in the complaint by plaintiffs, plaintiffs’ decedent and/or decedent’s distributees were caused, in whole or in part, by the culpable conduct of plaintiffs, plaintiffs’ decedent and/or decedent’s distributees and without any negligence on the part of defendant.

Damages, if any, are to be diminished proportionally to the culpable conduct of the plaintiffs, plaintiffs' decedent and/or decedent's distributees.

**FOR A SECOND DEFENSE**

THIRTY-SECOND: That the equitable share of liability, if any, of defendant PRISON HEALTH SERVICES, INC., shall be determined pursuant to the provisions of Article 16 of the CPLR.

**FOR A THIRD DEFENSE**

THIRTY-THIRD: That one or more of the causes of action in the complaint fail to state a cause of action upon which relief may be granted.

**FOR A FOURTH DEFENSE**

THIRTY-FOURTH: Plaintiff is not a proper party plaintiff and this action is therefore a nullity.

**FOR A FIFTH DEFENSE**

THIRTY-FIFTH: This action is barred or defendant is entitled to a set-off against any award herein as plaintiffs have previously recovered sums for all or part of the damages claimed herein.

**FOR A SIXTH DEFENSE**

THIRTY-SIXTH: The amount of alleged damages claimed by plaintiffs should be reduced pursuant to CPLR § 4545 to the extent of any collateral source benefits, remuneration or compensation received.

**FOR A SEVENTH DEFENSE**

THIRTY-SEVENTH: That defendant denies that it is liable in any way to plaintiffs under any legal theory because of the doctrine of immunity, whether qualified, sovereign, statutory or otherwise.



**FOR A EIGHTH DEFENSE**

THIRTY-EIGHTH: That plaintiffs are not entitled to recover damages in this action under 42 U.S.C. §1983.

**FOR A NINTH DEFENSE**

THIRTY-NINTH: Plaintiffs may not properly assert a cause of action against the answering defendant for violation of 42 U.S.C. §1983.

**FOR A TENTH DEFENSE**

FORTIETH: That the occurrence alleged in plaintiffs' complaint was caused, contributed to and brought about, in whole or in part, by the conduct of persons over whom this defendant exercised no supervision or control, including the plaintiff, such conduct amounting to contributory negligence, and the damages and injuries otherwise recoverable by plaintiffs, if any, should be diminished in proportion to which such person(s)' conduct bears to the conduct which caused plaintiff's injuries and damages, if any, pursuant to the decisional and statutory laws of the State of New York and the United States in such cases made and provided.

**FOR A ELEVENTH DEFENSE**

FORTY-FIRST: That this defendant alleges and states that there were intervening and superseding acts and occurrences over which it had no control and which caused any claimed injuries of plaintiff.

**FOR A TWELFTH DEFENSE**

FORTY-SECOND: That this defendant denies any and all allegations of plaintiffs' complaint not specifically admitted herein.

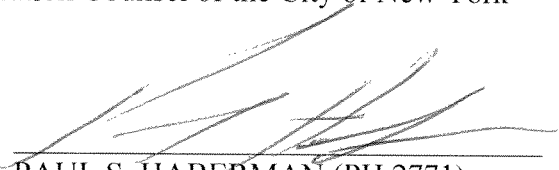
WHEREFORE, defendant PRISON HEALTH SERVICES, INC., demands judgment dismissing the complaint herein, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: New York, New York  
July 17, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

HEIDELL, PITTONI, MURPHY & BACH, LLP  
Of Counsel to MICHAEL A. CARDOZO, ESQ.,  
Corporation Counsel of the City of New York

By:



PAUL S. HABERMAN (PH 2771)  
Attorneys for Defendant  
PRISON HEALTH SERVICES, INC.  
Office & P.O. Address  
99 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10016  
(212) 286-8585

TO: Andrew B. Stoll, Esq.  
STOLL, GLICKMAN & BELLINA, LLP  
Attorneys for Plaintiff FRANK MERCADO  
71 Nevins Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11217  
(718) 852-3710

Colleen M. Meenan, Esq.  
Meenan & Associates, LLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff EVELYN MERCADO  
64 Fulton Street, Ste. 502  
New York, NY 10038

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE**

STATE OF NEW YORK     )  
  ) ss.:  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK    )


**Jennifer Alvarado**, being sworn, says:

I am not a party to the action, am over 18 years of age and am employed by HEIDELL, PITTONI, MURPHY & BACH, LLP.

On **July 17, 2008**, I served a true copy of the annexed **ANSWER** in the following manner: by mailing the same in a sealed envelope, with postage prepaid thereon, in a post-office or official depository of the U.S. Postal Service within the State of New York, addressed to the last-known address of the addressee(s) as indicated below:

TO:   Andrew B. Stoll, Esq.  
      STOLL, GLICKMAN & BELLINA, LLP  
      Attorneys for Plaintiff FRANK MERCADO  
      71 Nevins Street  
      Brooklyn, New York 11217  
      (718) 852-3710

Colleen M. Meenan, Esq.  
Meenan & Associates, LLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff EVELYN MERCADO  
64 Fulton Street, Ste. 502  
New York, NY 10038

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Alvarado

Sworn to before me this  
18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2008

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

IDALIA SANCHEZ  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 01SA6161579  
Qualified in Queens County  
Commission Expires Feb. 26, 2011